



# ECEAP

WASHINGTON STATE'S



## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Preschool for low-income and at-risk children in Washington State**

## ECEAP's High Quality Performance Standards

**ECEAP's performance standards are quality benchmarks for programs to follow in designing and delivering their comprehensive school readiness and child development services.** They were developed with national, state, and local input. Here are highlights for each of the five major sections:

- ◆ **Administration** - ECEAP services are provided free of charge, and community partnerships are strongly encouraged. Programs access other services, like Medicaid and federal food programs. Each program has a parent-run Policy Council with community members and parents/guardians of current and past enrolled children.
- ◆ **Program Design & Evaluation** - Collaborative community needs assessments are conducted every two years. Programs offer at least 32 weeks of service a year, with a minimum of 240 hours of child direct services over 30 weeks. Adult/child ratios are designed at 1:6, and in no cases fall below 1:9. The maximum group setting is 18 children. Staff qualifications are laid out in detail, including two- or four-year degrees for Lead Teachers. Provisional qualifications exist for developing staff. Programs undergo self-assessments yearly and intensive on-site reviews every four years.
- ◆ **Early Childhood Education** - ECEAP provides an integrated, individualized, and developmentally-appropriate curriculum that offers play-based learning experiences and culturally relevant materials addressing: language and literacy; math and science; social development; medical, dental, and mental health; nutrition and personal hygiene; the arts; physical education; child abuse prevention; violence prevention and personal safety; self-esteem and self efficacy; and substance abuse prevention.
- ◆ **Family Support** - Programs partner with families to build services and activities from parent/guardian strengths. ECEAP supports family empowerment and develops leadership and advocacy skills for school and community environments. Culturally and linguistically appropriate services are provided. Programs facilitate access to community resources and work to ease transitions between home, school, and other care settings.
- ◆ **Health & Safety** - Programs screen for child immunization, medical, and dental health issues and refer for services as necessary. Staff and families work together to remove obstacles to the healthy development of each child. Guidelines are set for facility, material, and transportation safety. Snacks and meals are provided in group settings.

**ECEAP: Ready to Succeed!**

